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NEWS RELEASE

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April 26, 2000

Contact: Dean Jerry Brown, School of Journalism, 243-4001.

NBC CORRESPONDENT TO DELIVER J-SCHOOL LECTURE

One of network television's most recognizable faces will present the School of Journalism's inaugural Marjorie Nichols Lecture Friday, May 5, at The University of Montana.

Keith Morrison, correspondent for NBC News and "Dateline NBC," will speak at 7 p.m. in the North Underground Lecture Hall. The free public lecture will focus on current media issues, including problems posed by new technologies and the presuppositions that journalists make.

"Cable TV and the Internet mean you have to be careful about what you watch and what you say, either as a journalist or a consumer," Morrison said. "Everything we do, everything we ask, is influenced by decisions we have either consciously or unconsciously made. It raises the importance of methodology and constant questioning and constant oversight by others who are constantly questioning."

Morrison became an NBC News correspondent in 1988, covering breaking news stories on the West Coast and in Asia. In 1989, reporting from China, he was a key figure in coverage of Beijing's student rebellion and the military reaction.

His journalism career began in 1966 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he

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was a reporter for the Star Phoenix. He went on to hold TV anchor and reporting positions at several Canadian stations, eventually landing at the Canadian Broadcasting Co. From 1982 to 1986 he was a correspondent and anchor for CBC's "The Journal," a nightly news and current affairs program.

He is married to Suzanne Perry Morrison, a writer, consultant and political fund-raiser who was press secretary to former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. They have four children, including Matthew Perry, co-star of the NBC television program "Friends."

The Marjorie Nichols Lecture honors a UM journalism graduate who became one of Canada's most prominent journalists. Only 48 years old when she died of cancer in 1991, Nichols had earned a reputation for biting political commentary. She covered parliament for many years for the Ottawa Citizen and was a frequent guest on CBC radio and television.

When she died, a Canadian columnist said, "Ms. Nichols belonged to that small circle of Canadian political journalists who were as much celebrities and as much on the inside of political life as the people about whom she wrote."

UM's journalism school established the Nichols Lecture with the help of the Nichols family and UM alumni.

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